



National Fire Plan

Fire Preparedness and Facilities

Preparedness Resources

Fire preparedness, a key element of the National Fire Plan, incorporates all components necessary to prepare for and fight wildland fires, including workforce development, training, equipment availability, and facilities maintenance. All of this enables federal wildland fire management agencies to strengthen and enhance initial attack and fire suppression efforts.

Initial attack activities were highly successful in FY 2004, with over 99 percent of all wildland fires contained to less than 300 acres. NFP funding contributed to these successes by funding a highly trained, responsive firefighting workforce of 16,057 personnel. The workforce and equipment on hand to achieve this objective are displayed in the table below.

2004 Firefighting Resources

Resources	DOI	FS	Total
Firefighters, Fire Management, and Support Resources*	5,752	10,857	16,609
Helicopters	53	96	149
Engines and Heavy Equipment	781	770	1,551
Water Tenders	94	63	157
Dozers / plows	108	152	260
Boats	7	10	17
Type 1 or Hotshot Crews	25	66	91
Smokejumpers	153	277	430
Airtankers	29	8	37
Other Aircraft**	29	21	50

*Includes firefighters, management, overhead, support personnel, and prevention techs (399) for the FS.

**Other aircraft include helitankers, leadplanes, etc.

Workforce Development and Training

In addition to recruiting and retaining a highly qualified firefighting workforce, the agencies are pursuing an aggressive program of firefighter training and development. In FY 2004, with support from NFP funding, the agencies accomplished the following:

- On September 1, 2004 the National Advanced Resource Technology Center (NARTC) in Marana, Arizona, moved to a state-of-the-art facility called the National Advanced Fire & Resource Institute (NAFRI) in Tucson.
- The Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS) implementation was completed in FY 2004. This system enables incident managers to consistently analyze training and

workforce needs, design training programs, and find common solutions to workforce-related issues. The system also improves the efficiency of identifying appropriate personnel in the resource ordering system.

- The increasing importance of a workforce qualified in safe and effective hazardous fuels reduction techniques continues in the form of a multi-year program to improve the infrastructure and curricula of the Prescribed Fire Training Center and Fire Use Training Academy.
 - Fourteen agencies supported the *National Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Center*, where 121 participants completed training. Another 25 participants attended workshops.
 - The *Fire Use Training Academy*, with funding and support from the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior, had 281 employees of federal and state agencies complete core courses for a total of 10,384 trainee hours; 67 students graduated from the Fire Use Training Academy in CY 2004.
- Five agencies, with support from the U.S. Department of Labor, continued to operate the *Wildland Firefighter Apprenticeship Program* in California. In FY 2004, 536 Forest Service apprentice firefighters were enrolled in the academy.
- At the end of the 2004 fiscal year, Interagency Fire Program Management (IFPM) was implemented on an interagency basis. This program was developed in response to the Interagency Management Review Team (IMRT) as a response item generated by the 14 firefighter fatalities that occurred on the South Canyon Fire in 1994. The program has identified competency and education standards for 14 key safety-related positions within the fire organization. This five-year transition to the proposed standards will affect thousands of individuals within the fire organization and transition a significant number of positions from the technical to the professional level.
- The Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center continues to provide an on-line navigable library of information directed at safety, training, and workforce development from after-action reviews and studies. This website provides information and answers to questions on issues facing fire managers and firefighters.

Facilities, Construction, and Maintenance

- In FY 2004 the agencies accomplished work on 65 projects totaling \$24.7 million in expenditures. Projects included crew quarters, offices, guard stations, equipment facilities, fire stations, helibases, and lookouts.